

- 2 multiple users in a distributed value exchange system without requiring direct  
communication between the users, the method comprising:
- 4 (a) registering a first user with the value exchange system, wherein the first  
user is assigned a first account with the value exchange system;
- 6 (b) receiving at the value exchange system a value exchange transaction from  
the first user, wherein said transaction involves a second user and includes:
- 8 (i) a pre-existing identifier of the second user, wherein the pre-  
existing identifier enables communication with the second user independent of the  
10 value exchange system; and
- (ii) a value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user;
- 12 (c) sending a notification of said value exchange transaction from the value  
exchange system to the second user; and
- 14 (d) allocating said value between said first account and a second account  
associated with the second user.

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2. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
- 2 (c') registering the second user with the value exchange system if not already  
registered.
3. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein said value to be exchanged  
2 between the first user and the second user is to be transferred from the first user to the  
second user.
4. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein said value to be exchanged  
2 between the first user and the second user is to be transferred from the second user to the  
first user.
5. (Unchanged) The method of claim 3, wherein said value to be exchanged  
2 between the first user and the second user is receivable by the second user as a  
redeemable voucher.

2 6. (Unchanged) The method of claim 5, wherein said redeemable voucher is  
redeemable by the second user by selecting an electronic link provided to the second  
user.

2 7. (Unchanged) The method of claim 5, wherein the redeemable voucher  
includes an electronic advertisement.

2 8. (Unchanged) The method of claim 3, wherein said value to be exchanged  
between the first user and the second user is receivable by the second user through a debit  
card.

2 9. (Unchanged) The method of claim 3, wherein said value to be exchanged  
between the first user and the second user is receivable by the second user in the form of  
a web certificate, and wherein the method further comprises:

4 transferring said value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user  
from the second user to a third user.

2 10. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein said pre-existing identifier  
is a telephone number.

2 11. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein said pre-existing identifier  
is an electronic mail address.

2 12. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein said receiving a value  
exchange transaction comprises:

4 initiating a value exchange involving a second user on a mobile client device of  
said first user;

establishing a connection between the first user and the value exchange system;

6 and

transmitting said value exchange to the system.

13. (Unchanged) The method of claim 12, wherein said initiating a value  
2 exchange transaction comprises establishing a communication link between the first  
user's mobile computing device and a second user's mobile client device.
14. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein said value exchange  
2 transaction is received from the first user through a mobile communication device.
15. (Unchanged) The method of claim 14, wherein the mobile  
2 communication device is a personal digital assistant.
16. (Unchanged) The method of claim 14, wherein the mobile  
2 communication device is a telephone.
17. (Unchanged) The method of claim 14, wherein the mobile  
2 communication device is a two-way pager.
18. (Unchanged) The method of claim 14, wherein said value exchange  
2 transaction is received from the mobile communication device through a wireless  
network.
19. (Unchanged) The method of claim 14, wherein the mobile  
2 communication device is a disconnectable device.
20. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, further comprising converting said  
2 value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user from a first form to a  
second form.
21. (Unchanged) The method of claim 20, wherein said first form is a first  
2 currency and said second form is a second currency.
22. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein the form of said value to

2 be exchanged between the first user and the second user depends on the pre-existing  
2 identifier.

23. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, further comprising holding said  
2 value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user in escrow with an  
escrow party until said value exchange transaction is completed.

24. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, further comprising repeating (b),  
2 (c) and (d) for a second value exchange transaction between the second user and a third  
user.

25. (Unchanged) The method of claim 1, wherein an asymmetric  
2 cryptographic scheme is applied to secure said value exchange transaction.

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26. (Once Amended) A method of facilitating an exchange of value  
2 between multiple users through a distributed transaction system, comprising:

(a) receiving an instruction from a first user to exchange a value with a  
4 second user, wherein the first user is a registered user of the distributed transaction  
system and the instruction includes:

6 (i) an identifier of a second user not registered with the distributed  
transaction system, wherein said identifier is usable to identify the second user  
8 independently of the distributed transaction system; and

(ii) the value to be exchanged between the first user and the second  
10 user;

(b) notifying the second user of said value exchange by the distributed  
12 transaction system;

(c) registering the second user with the distributed transaction system; and

14 (d) transferring said value between the first user and the second user.

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27. (Unchanged) The method of claim 26, wherein said identifier is an  
2 electronic mail address.

28. (Unchanged) The method of claim 26, wherein said identifier is a  
2 telephone number.

29. (Unchanged) The method of claim 26, wherein said instruction is  
2 received through a mobile communication device operated by the first user.

30. (Once Amended) A method of facilitating a financial transaction  
2 between a first user and a second user through a distributed financial services system, the  
method comprising:

4 (a) registering a first user with the distributed financial services system;  
(b) receiving at the distributed financial services system a financial exchange  
6 request from a mobile communication device operated by the first user, wherein said  
financial transaction request includes:

8 (i) a pre-existing identifier of a second user participating in said  
financial exchange, wherein said pre-existing identifier is configured to identify  
10 the second user for a purpose other than conducting a financial exchange with the  
financial services system; and

12 (ii) an amount of the financial exchange;

(c) sending a notification of said financial exchange request from the  
14 distributed financial service system to the second user; and

(d) allocating said amount of said financial exchange between the first user  
16 and the second user.

31. (Unchanged) The method of claim 30, wherein said pre-existing  
2 identifier is an electronic mail address.

32. (Unchanged) The method of claim 30, wherein said pre-existing  
2 identifier is a telephone number.

33. (Unchanged) The method of claim 30, further comprising:

- 2 (c') registering the second user with the distributed financial services system  
before allocating said amount of said financial exchange.

- 2 34. (Once Amended) A value exchange system for exchanging value  
2 between multiple users, comprising:  
a database configured to store information concerning registered users of the  
4 value exchange system and details of transactions conducted by the registered users;  
a synchronization server configured to receive a first value exchange transaction  
6 from a client device operated by a first party, wherein said first value exchange  
transaction involves a second party identified by the first party with an electronic mail  
8 address; and  
a communication server configured to:  
10 notify the second party of said first value exchange transaction using said  
electronic mail address; and  
12 receive a connection from the second party and register the second party if  
not already registered.

- 2 35. (Unchanged) The system of claim 34, further comprising a financial  
server configured to interact with a financial institution to access value to facilitate said  
first value exchange transaction.

- 2 36. (Unchanged) The system of claim 34, further comprising a security  
server configured to generate a digital identity certificate that may be used to authenticate  
the first party.

- 2 37. (Unchanged) The system of claim 36, wherein said security server is  
further configured to authenticate a digital transaction certificate that may be used to  
authenticate said value exchange transaction.

38. CANCEL

39. (New) A computer readable storage medium storing instructions  
2 that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform a method of  
facilitating a value exchange between multiple users in a distributed value exchange  
4 system without requiring direct communication between the users, the method  
comprising:  
6 (a) registering a first user with the value exchange system, wherein the first  
user is assigned a first account with the value exchange system;  
8 (b) receiving at the value exchange system a value exchange transaction from  
the first user, wherein said transaction involves a second user and includes:  
10 (i) a pre-existing identifier of the second user, wherein the pre-  
existing identifier enables communication with the second user independent of the  
12 value exchange system; and  
(ii) a value to be exchanged between the first user and the second user;  
14 (c) sending a notification of said value exchange transaction from the value  
exchange system to the second user; and  
16 (d) allocating said value between said first account and a second account  
associated with the second user.

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40. (New) A computer readable storage medium storing instructions  
2 that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to a method of facilitating an  
exchange of value between multiple users through a distributed transaction system, the  
4 method comprising:  
(a) receiving an instruction from a first user to exchange a value with a  
6 second user, wherein the first user is a registered user of the distributed transaction  
system and the instruction includes:  
8 (i) an identifier of a second user not registered with the distributed  
transaction system, wherein said identifier is usable to identify the second user  
10 independently of the distributed transaction system; and  
(ii) the value to be exchanged between the first user and the second  
12 user;

- 14 (b) notifying the second user of said value exchange by the distributed transaction system;
- (c) registering the second user with the distributed transaction system; and
- 16 (d) transferring said value between the first user and the second user.

41. (New) A computer readable storage medium storing instructions  
2 that, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to a method of facilitating a financial transaction between a first user and a second user through a distributed financial  
4 services system, the method comprising:

- (a) registering a first user with the distributed financial services system;
- 6 (b) receiving at the distributed financial services system a financial exchange request from a mobile communication device operated by the first user, wherein said  
8 financial transaction request includes:

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(i) a pre-existing identifier of a second user participating in said  
10 financial exchange, wherein said pre-existing identifier is configured to identify the second user for a purpose other than conducting a financial exchange with the  
12 financial services system; and

- (ii) an amount of the financial exchange;
- 14 (c) sending a notification of said financial exchange request from the distributed financial service system to the second user; and
- 16 (d) allocating said amount of said financial exchange between the first user and the second user.

42. (New) A system for facilitating the transfer of value from one user  
2 to another user, comprising:

means for receiving a value transfer request from a value provider, wherein said  
4 value transfer request comprises:

- an electronic mail address of a value receiver; and
- 6 a first value to be transferred from the value provider to the value receiver;
- means for transferring said first value from a first account associated with the  
8 value provider to a second account associated with the value receiver; and



means for notifying the value receiver of said value transfer;  
10 wherein the value receiver is identifiable, for purposes of said value transfer, only  
by said electronic mail address.

43. (New) A method of transferring value, comprising:  
2 receiving a connection from a registered user of a value transfer system;  
receiving from the registered user a request to execute a transfer to an  
4 unregistered party, wherein the unregistered party is identified only by an electronic mail  
address, the request comprising:  
6 said electronic mail address of the unregistered party; and  
a first value to be transferred to the unregistered party; and  
8 sending notification of said transfer from said value transfer system to the  
unregistered party via electronic mail.

ab 44. (New) A method of transferring value, comprising:  
2 receiving a connection from a first user of a value transfer system;  
receiving from the first user a request to execute a value transfer to a second user,  
4 the request comprising:  
an electronic mail address of the second user; and  
6 a first value to be transferred to the second user; and  
sending a notification of said value transfer from said value transfer system to the  
8 second user via electronic mail;  
wherein said electronic mail address is sufficient for said value transfer system to  
10 transfer said first value an account of the first user to an account associated with the  
second user.

**In the Abstract:**

*Please replace the Abstract with the new Abstract provided on the following page:*

a4 —  
A system and method for facilitating a value exchange transaction. A first party initiates the transaction by selecting or providing an identifier of another party and the value to be exchanged. The second party may be identified by a pre-existing identifier such as an electronic mail address, telephone number, etc. The system informs the second party of the transaction (e.g., using the specified pre-existing identifier). If the second party is not a registered user of the system, he or she is invited to register and complete the transaction. The system may comprise a synchronization server for exchanging transaction details with users' devices, a communication server for registering new users and/or conducting transactions online and a financial server for interacting with external financial institutions.